

REMARKS

Claims 64-90 are pending in this application, with claims 65 and 69-89 being withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 64 and 90 are amended for further clarity. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Castellano in the June 8 and 9 telephone interviews. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. Pending Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of all prior grounds of rejection in favor of new grounds.

The Office Action rejects claims 64, 68 and 90 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,308,427 to Duhaime et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 64 and 90 are amended to specify that the insert is made of a material having a melting temperature higher than that of the thermoplastic material. Support for this amendment is found at, for example, paragraph [0040].

Duhaime teaches at C2/L49-52 that "core 24 is generally made from the same or compatible material as parison 12. The still hot parison 12 warms the surface of core 24 and causes it to partially melt and fuse." Thus, if anything, Duhaime teaches away from this feature. As admitted by Examiner Castellano, this feature is not found in Duhaime.

Because Duhaime fails to teach each and every feature of independent claims 64 or 90, these claims are not anticipated by Duhaime. Rejected dependent claim 68 is allowable for its dependence on allowable base claim 64 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 66 and 67 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Duhaime in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,952,347 to Kasugai. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Duhaime is discussed above. Kasugai fails to overcome the deficiencies of Duhaime with respect to independent claim 64. Accordingly, dependent claims 66 and 67 are allowable for their dependence on allowable base claim 64 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejoinder of Claims

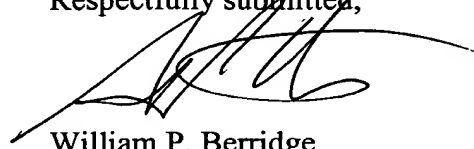
Claims 65, and 69-89 are indicated to be withdrawn (even though some were addressed in the prior art rejection). However, because independent claim 64 is generic and allowable for the reasons discussed above, all of dependent claims 65 and 69-89 are also allowable for their dependence on allowable generic claim 64 and must be rejoined and allowed in accordance with MPEP §821.04.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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